

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-39. (canceled)

40. (new) A keyboard, comprising:

at least one key, said at least one key having:

a plurality of superposed filters each corresponding to a spectrum of light, and to a message to be displayed on said at least one key; and

a contactor adapted to supply a signal representative of an interaction between a user and said at least one key;

a light source adapted to light up, by backlighting, the superposed filters of said at least one key; and

a modulator for modulating at least one physical characteristic of said light source, adapted to modulate at least one spectrum of light emitted by said light source, to make visible a message placed on said filter of said at least one key,

each filter having transparent areas and functional areas with absorption spectra respectively corresponding substantially to emission spectra of said light source, for different modulation values of the modulator,

at least one filter's functional areas having substantially different transmission spectrum than emission spectra of said light source corresponding to any one of the different modulation values of the modulator, and

a reception device receiving signals from said contactor, said reception device being adapted to assign different symbols to said signals, in line with a switching carried out by a switching means.

41. (new) The keyboard according to claim 40, wherein each said key comprises at least three superposed filters, said filters having transparent areas and functional areas with absorption spectra respectively corresponding substantially to the emission spectra of said light source, for at least three modulation values of said modulator.

42. (new) The keyboard according to claim 40, wherein each filter has transparent areas with less than 100% transparency.

43. (new) The keyboard according to claim 40, wherein each filter comprises one of a transparent or translucent medium, the message being printed thereon.

44. (new) The keyboard according to claim 40,
wherein said light source is adapted to light up jointly, by backlighting, a plurality of keys and the superposed filters thereof, and

wherein said modulator of at least one physical characteristic of said light source is adapted to modulate at least one value of the physical characteristic of the light emitted by the light source and received by the plurality of keys, in order to jointly make visible the messages placed on said filter of each of said keys.

45. (new) The keyboard according to claim 40, wherein said modulator is adapted to modify a spectral band of light reaching said filters and said filters provide spectral bands of different transparency.

46. (new) The keyboard according to claim 40, wherein said light source comprises a light-emitting diode having a spectral band of emission that varies according to an electrical characteristics of a power signal applied thereto, and said modulator is adapted to modify said electrical characteristics.

47. (new) The keyboard according to claim 40, wherein said light source comprises at least two independent electro-optical transducers placed in parallel on an optical path of

light rays from said light source to said key, and said modulator is adapted to control alternately the light emission by either one of said electro-optical transducers.

48. (new) The keyboard according to claim 40, further comprising:

at least one optical fiber defining an optical path from said light source to said at least one key.

49. (new) The keyboard according to claim 40, further comprising:

at least one optical reflector element defining an optical path from said light source to said at least one key.

50. (new) The keyboard according to claim 40, wherein at least two of said filters of said at least one key are each formed of an assembly of filters, with the assemblies of filters being juxtaposed alternately in said at least one key.

51. (new) A combination, comprising:

an electronic device selected from the group consisting of: a personal digital assistant, an organizer, a telephone, a games console, a portable computer, an Internet access terminal, an Automatic Teller Machine, a watch, a remote control, a portable music player, a positioning system and an audiovisual

signal receiver, office or leisure electronic equipment, a facsimile machine, a photocopier, a scanner, a recorded media reader, a home system installation, a household appliance, a medical device, a measurement device, an automated analysis device, automobile equipment, a signboard, a switch, a games system, a decorative element, a lamp, and/or a display panel; and

at least one key integrated with the electronic device, said at least one key having:

a plurality of superposed filters each corresponding to a spectrum of light, and to a message to be displayed on said at least one key; and

a contactor adapted to supply a signal representative of an interaction between a user and said at least one key;

a light source adapted to light up, by backlighting, the superposed filters of said at least one key; and

a modulator for modulating at least one physical characteristic of said light source, adapted to modulate at least one spectrum of light emitted by said light source, to make visible a message placed on said filter of said at least one key,

each filter having transparent areas and functional areas with absorption spectra respectively corresponding substantially to emission spectra of said light source, for different modulation values of the modulator,

at least one filter's functional areas having substantially different transmission spectrum than emission

spectra of said light source corresponding to any one of the different modulation values of the modulator, and

a reception device receiving signals from said contactor, said reception device being adapted to assign different symbols to said signals, in line with a switching carried out by a switching means.

52. (new) A display method, comprising the steps of:

switching a light source adapted to light up by backlighting at least one key, each key including i) at least two superposed filters, each filter corresponding to a spectrum of light and to a message to be displayed on the key, each filter having transparent areas and functional areas with absorption spectra respectively corresponding substantially to emission spectra of said light source, and at least one filter's functional areas having substantially different transmission spectrum than any one of emission spectra of said light source, and ii) a contactor adapted to deliver a signal representative of an interaction between a user and the key;

modulating at least one spectrum of the light emitted by the light source, in order to jointly make visible a message placed on a filter of said at least one key; and

receiving signals coming from each of the contactors, during which different symbols are assigned to the signals,

depending on a state of a switching means that performs the switching step.